

SUBJECT: UTILIZATION OF ATROPINE, DIAZEPAM, MIDAZOLAM &
2-PAM CL FOR TREATMENT OF NERVE AGENT EXPOSURE

Date: 10/01/08

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- I. **Authority:** Health & Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1798; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Section 100145 (2); and County of San Diego Multi-casualty Plan, Annex B & Annex D
- II. **Purpose:** To identify the procedure for administration of Atropine, 2-PAM Cl (Pralidoxime), Diazepam and Midazolam for treatment of nerve agent exposure in a suspected terrorist event.
- III. **Definitions:** Chempack Cache – a strategically placed supply of medications used in the treatment of nerve gas exposure.
- Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) - systematic medical response to nuclear, biological or chemical acts of terrorism.
- Metropolitan Medical Strike Team (MMST) - a designated team specially trained and equipped to manage incident scenes of nuclear, biological or chemical acts of terrorism.
- Nerve Agent - a chemical that has biological effects by inhibiting the enzyme acetyl cholinesterase, thus allowing the neurotransmitter acetylcholine to accumulate and over-stimulate organs and the nervous system causing sudden loss of consciousness, seizures, apnea and death. Nerve agents include Tabun (GA), Sarin (GB), Soman (GD) and VX.
- Terrorism - the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property or to coerce a government or civilian population in the furtherance of political or social objectives.
- Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) - devices specially designed and

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utilized by terrorists to cause mass illness, injury, death and hysteria on a population.

IV. Policy:

- A. In a suspected or confirmed terrorist event in response to a release of Nerve Agent when signs and symptoms are exhibited, an autoinjector or injection device of Atropine, 2-PamCl, Diazepam (if available) and Midazolam may be administered. Diazepam autoinjector use requires MMST physician prescription.
- B. The primary use of predeployed medication will be for treatment or self-treatment of public safety personnel. Secondary use will be for treatment of patients.
- C. Atropine and 2-PamCl will be stored and available for use on designated first responder vehicles, hazmat units and deployable cache stockpiles per the MMRS plan.
- D. Only prehospital personnel who have completed County of San Diego approved training specific to use of the Atropine, 2-PamCl and Diazepam autoinjectors are authorized to utilize the Autoinjectors.
- E. If medications are used, and this is in response to a wide-spread incident consider activation of MMST through the EMS Duty Officer and Station M.
- F. All uses of the medication and activation of the MMRS plan will be reviewed by the MMST Program Management Team with summary reports to the Medical Director and County EMS Prehospital Audit Committee.

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